Those Who Have Lain in State or in Honor in the United States Capitol

The Rotunda of the United States Capitol, completed in 1824, has historically been considered the most suitable place for the nation to pay final tribute to its most eminent citizens by having their remains lie in state (in the case of government officials and military officers) or in honor (in the case of private citizens). These occasions are either authorized by a congressional resolution or approved by the congressional leadership, when permission is granted by survivors. In addition to the Rotunda, other areas such as National Statuary Hall, the Old Supreme Court Chamber, the entrance to the House Chamber, and the East Central Front Portico have been used for those who have lain in state or in honor. The prominent individuals who have been so honored are listed below. These figures have lain in state, or in honor, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda unless otherwise specified (indicated by an asterisk).

Henry Clay. July 1, 1852, following a memorial service in the Senate Chamber (S-228). Member of the House of Representatives from Kentucky for five nonconsecutive terms (1811–1825). Served as speaker in 1811–1814, 1815–1820, and 1823–1825. Secretary of state from 1825 to 1829. U.S. Senator from Kentucky intermittently for 18 years between 1806 and 1852. Died June 29, 1852, in Washington, D.C. during the 32nd Congress, 1st Session. No resolution.


*Salmon P. Chase. May 11, 1873. Chief justice of the United States from 1864 until his death in 1873. Services held in the U.S. Capitol Building were conducted in the Old Supreme Court Chamber.

Charles Sumner. March 13, 1874, before a memorial service in the Senate Chamber. U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, April 24, 1851, until his death, March 11, 1874, in Washington, D.C. during the 43rd Congress, 1st Session. No resolution.

Henry Wilson. November 25–26, 1875, before a memorial service in the Senate Chamber. U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, January 31, 1855, to
March 3, 1873, when he resigned to become vice president. Vice president of United States from March 4, 1873, until his death. Died November 22, 1875, in the vice president’s room in the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C., after adjournment of the 43rd Congress, 2nd Session. No resolution.


John A. Logan. December 30–31, 1886, before a memorial service in the Senate Chamber. Member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, March 4, 1859, to April 2, 1862, when he resigned to enter the Union Army, and again from March 4, 1867, until March 3, 1871. U.S. Senator from Illinois, March 4, 1871, to March 3, 1877, and again from March 4, 1879, to December 26, 1886. Died December 26, 1886, in Washington, D.C., during the 49th Congress, 2nd Session. No resolution.

William McKinley Jr. September 17, 1901, following a memorial service in the Rotunda. Member of the House of Representatives from Ohio, March 4, 1877, to May 27, 1884, and again from March 4, 1885, to March 3, 1891. Governor of Ohio from 1892 to 1896. President of United States, March 4, 1897, until his death. Assassinated September 6, 1901, in Buffalo, New York, and died there September 14, 1901, after adjournment of the 56th Congress, 2nd Session. No resolution.

Pierre Charles L’Enfant. (re-interment) April 28, 1909, before a memorial service in the Rotunda. Planner of the city of Washington, D.C. Died June 14, 1825, and was buried on Diggers farm, Prince George’s County, Maryland. Remains were brought to the U.S. Capitol, April 28, 1909, to be re-interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Authority for use of the Rotunda was granted by Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, 61st Congress, 1st Session, agreed to March 26, 1909.


Unknown Soldier of World War I. November 9–11, 1921. Chosen to honor and perpetuate the memory of the heroes who gave their lives in World War I. The body was that of an unknown American who served as a member of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. Congress was in session, 67th Congress, 1st Session. No resolution.


Unknown Soldiers of World War II and the Korean War. May 28–30, 1958. Chosen to honor and perpetuate the memory of the heroes who gave their lives while serving overseas in the U.S. armed forces during World War II and the Korean War, and whose identities were unknown. Authority for use of the Rotunda granted by House Concurrent Resolution 242, 85th Congress, 2nd Session, agreed to March 6, 1958.


Rotunda granted by House Concurrent Resolution 296, 98th Congress, 2nd Session, agreed to May 17, 1984.


**Elijah Cummings.** October 24, 2019. Member of the House of Representatives from Maryland, April 16, 1996, until his death on October 17, 2019, in Baltimore, Maryland. Authority for use of the Lincoln catafalque for memorial services to be conducted in the House wing of the U.S. Capitol, granted by Senate Concurrent Resolution 27, 116 Congress, 1st session, agreed to October 21, 2019. Services were conducted in National Statuary Hall. A public viewing was also held at the entrance to the House Chamber.


**Ruth Bader Ginsburg.** September 25, 2020. Associate justice of the Supreme Court from August 10, 1993 until her death on September 18, 2020, in Washington, D.C. Authority for use of the Lincoln catafalque for memorial services to be conducted in the Supreme Court Building and the Capitol granted by Senate Concurrent Resolution 45, 116th Congress, 2nd Session, agreed to September 21, 2020. Services held in the U.S. Capitol Building were conducted in National Statuary Hall.

**Brian D. Sicknick.** February 2-3, 2021, before and following a memorial ceremony in the Rotunda. U.S. Capitol Police officer injured at the U.S. Capitol in the line of duty on January 6, 2021. He succumbed to his injuries on January 7, 2021. Authority for use of the Rotunda granted by House Concurrent Resolution 10, 117th Congress, 1st Session, agreed to February 1, 2021. Lay in honor; urn with Officer Sicknick’s remains placed next to a U.S. flag on a pedestal; did not use catafalque.


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